

Question on Notice
No. 358
Asked on 31 March 2022

MR M BERKMAN ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to roadside drug testing conducted by the QPS in the last three years (2019 to 2021)— Will the Minister advise (a) how many tests were conducted, (b) of these, how many were initial positive tests, including a breakdown by substance, (c) how many were confirmed positive tests, including a breakdown by substance, (d) how many of the people who tested positive for cannabis had a valid prescription for medicinal cannabis at the time of any positive test and (e) how many people had their drivers licence suspended, including a breakdown by substance?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) has advised that 146,491 roadside drug tests were conducted by the QPS over the last three years.

I am further advised by the QPS that 32,051 roadside drug tests produced an initial positive test and that a breakdown by substance is not available for initial roadside drug tests.

The QPS has advised that of those, 18,721 positive tests were confirmed related to Methamphetamine, 18,106 positive tests were confirmed related to Tetrahydrocannabinol and 1,514 positive tests were confirmed related to MDMA. Please note that a single occurrence arising from a positive roadside drug test may include multiple drug types.

I am further advised the QPS does not record whether a driver holds a current prescription for medicinal cannabis and therefore are unable to provide those statistics. Drivers prescribed medical cannabis containing THC, are advised not to drive while using this product.

The QPS advise that the provision of data on the number of drivers who have had their licence suspended as a result of returning a positive drug test, would require a review of individual court results of each individual, which the QPS considers to be an unjustifiable use of police resources at this time.